

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 6 and 7 are now in this application. Claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner states that claims 6 and 7 are allowed. As noted below, claim 1 is amended herein to include a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, all claims of this application are believed to be in condition for allowance.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iuchi et al. '622 in view of Kuroda '169 and Lejune '800.

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include a combination of elements directed to a pneumatic tire, wherein the single rubber strip is wound more than twice but less than thrice so that the slack portion has a triple thickness, and a JIS hardness of the rubber thereof is in a range of from 50 to 85.

Full support for these features can be found in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 11-14, and page 6, lines 8-9. See also rubber strip 8b and slack portion 8A1 in Fig. 3a.

By contrast, none of Iuchi et al., Kuroda, and Lejune teaches or suggests single rubber strip 8b is wound more than twice but less than thrice so that the slack portion 8A1 has a triple thickness, as set forth in claim 1. Moreover, none of these documents teaches a JIS hardness of the rubber strip being in a range of 50-85.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration of the rejections of record is respectfully requested and any early notice of allowance is earnest solicited.

**Conclusion**

The stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

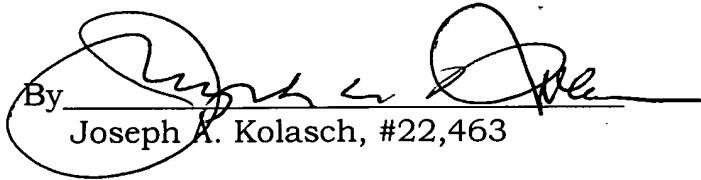
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully request a three-month extension of time in which to file this reply. A check for \$930 is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

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Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463

**239-608P**  
Attachments  
JAK:CTT:rk



P. O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

**MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIM 1**

1. (Twice amended) A pneumatic tire comprising
  - a pair of bead portions each provided therein with a bead core made of windings of at least one wire,
  - a carcass ply of cords extending between the bead portions and turned up around the bead core from the axially inside to the outside of the tire to form a pair of turnup portions and a main portion therebetween,
  - a rubber bead apex disposed radially outside the bead core and between each said turnup portion and the main portion,
  - a fiber reinforced rubber spacer interposed between the bead core and the carcass ply to provide a positive distance between the carcass ply cords and bead core wire,
  - said fiber reinforced rubber spacer having a securing portion which extends radially outwardly and axially outwardly from the axially inside of the bead core while separating from the bead core but contacting with the rubber bead apex, and
  - a distance (L1, L2) between an outermost point of said securing portion and the bead core being in a range of from 0.05 to 1.0 times a height of the bead core, wherein
    - said fiber reinforced rubber spacer is made of a single rubber strip reinforced with organic fibers,
    - said single rubber strip is loosely wound [at least once] around the bead core

to form a slack portion radially outside the bead core, and said securing portion is formed by the slack portion, wherein said single rubber strip is wound more than twice but less than thrice so that the slack portion has a triple thickness, and a JIS hardness of the rubber thereof is in a range of from 50 to 85, and  
a rubber layer inserted between the slack portion and a radially outer face of the bead core is harder than the rubber bead apex.